



## **TOBACCO CONTROL**

### **WHAT IS THE PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM?**

- Tobacco use, the single most preventable cause of death and disease in the United States, causes more than 440,000 deaths and costs at least \$75 billion in medical expenses and \$80 billion in indirect costs each year.
- An estimated 46.5 million adults in the U.S. smoke cigarettes. Nearly 70% of smokers want to quit, but only 2.5% per year are able to quit smoking permanently.
- Each day, nearly 3,000 young people become regular smokers - more than 1 million new smokers each year. Of these teens, one in three eventually will die from smoking.

### **WHAT HAS CDC ACCOMPLISHED?**

CDC provides federal leadership in tobacco control by strengthening tobacco-use science for public health action and working with partners to create comprehensive tobacco programs nationally and globally. CDC funds the development, implementation and evaluation of comprehensive tobacco control programs in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, 7 U.S. territories, 7 tribal organizations, and 9 national organizations. CDC also supports state-based media activities to educate the public on the health hazards of tobacco use. CDC conducts tobacco surveillance and research to strengthen the science behind tobacco control, including expanding knowledge of the health risks of nicotine, additives, and other potentially toxic compounds in tobacco through laboratory research. CDC also provides support for global tobacco control.

*Example of program in action:* Dramatic results are evident in states where comprehensive programs consistent with CDC's guidelines have been implemented. Between 1996 and 2002, the percentage of Oregon 8th grade students who smoke fell 47%, and the percentage of 11th grade students who smoke fell 26%. Oregon's results are consistent with those of the nation, with two exceptions: the steep declines in youth smoking began earlier in Oregon, and the percentage of Oregon's 11th grade students who smoke is lower than that of the nation.

### **WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?**

Reaching the Healthy People 2010 objective of cutting in half the smoking rates for youth and adults will require substantial national commitment to implement and sustain effective tobacco use prevention and control programs employing educational, clinical, regulatory, economic and comprehensive approaches. If current trends continue, tobacco will be the leading cause of preventable and premature death worldwide by 2030. Cohesive strategies and concerted action at both national and international levels are needed to help curb the global tobacco epidemic.

*For information on this and other CDC programs, visit [www.cdc.gov/programs](http://www.cdc.gov/programs).*

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